

Mr. Charles Sherman
Inspector, New York

February 28, 1974

S/A Michael L. Mullen
Boston, Massachusetts

Telephone conversation with Ms. Linda Stanier and
S/A Anthony "Tony" Tripone

On February 26, 1974, while at the Boston Regional Office, I received a telephone call from Ms. Linda Stanier (phonetic). Ms. Stanier stated that she was the girlfriend of Tony Tripone, an agent in New York. Ms. Stanier advised that she had met me in Washington, D. C. two years ago, when I was a counselor for Basic Agent Class #25. Tony Tripone was a member of that class. Ms. Stanier said that "Tony asked me (Ms. Stanier) to call you" (S/A Mullen).

I asked Ms. Stanier why Tony wanted her to call me. She said that "Tony is sick, he's in St. Luke's Hospital in New York suffering from hypertension". Ms. Stanier further stated that "Tony wants you (S/A Mullen) to have Inspection in Boston call him (S/A Tripone). I told Ms. Stanier that there was no Office of Inspection in Boston, that the New York Office of Inspection covered Boston. Ms. Stanier stated that she did not know what this was all about but that she felt Tony needed help.

I asked Ms. Stanier what telephone number Tony could be reached at. She replied, 212-864-8956, Room 5827.

Ms. Stanier asked me "to call Tony and let her know what was going on". She said she was a student at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts and could be reached at telephone number 413-586-2657. I said I would call Tony. At this time the conversation terminated.

A few minutes later I called 212-864-8956. An unidentified female answered and I asked to speak to "Tony Tripone". A few moments later S/A Tripone came to the phone. I identified

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myself and S/A Tripioni recognized who I was. S/A Tripioni asked if I knew "Jim Borden". I said "yes", he's an Inspector in New York". S/A Tripioni said Jim Borden inspected his group during the last inspection and that he (S/A Tripioni wanted to talk to him (Jim Borden).

S/A Tripioni want on to say " it is about time someone in inspection knew what is going on down here". S/A Tripioni said he felt Linda better find out what is going on. At this point, S/A Tripioni's conversation did not make much sense and I could not follow exactly what he (S/A Tripioni) was saying. S/A Tripioni said "Borden and I (S/A Tripioni) have to get together with "Lund". S/A Tripioni said "Bob ??? Fallon is involved" and "I'm (S/A Tripioni) working with a bunch of dangerous neurotics and drunks and it's about time someone found out about this". S/A Tripioni said "you remember the thing about giving me the bullets".

At this juncture of the conversation, I told S/A Tripioni I would contact Jim Borden or someone in the Inspection Office and in turn someone (from Inspection) would contact him (S/A Tripioni). I asked S/A Tripioni if the number where he could be reached was 212-864-8956 Room 5827, S/A Tripioni replied "yes". I asked him where this number was and he said "St. Luke's Hospital". S/A Tripioni said "I know why I'm here and who put me here and I'll tell Jim Borden". At this point I said good-bye to S/A Tripioni and the conversation was terminated. The above conversation was monitored by S/A Robert J. Bishop, Boston Office.

I relayed the above to Deputy Regional Director, James Green, who instructed me to tell Inspector, Chuck Sherman of the New York Office of Inspection, which I did.

S/A Michael L. Mullen
Boston Regional Office

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Charles D. Sherman
Inspector-in-Charge

March 21, 1974

Mortimer L. Benjamin
Inspector

Interview of Special Agent Anthony Tripone and Miss Linda Stanier

On Tuesday, February 26, 1974 Inspector-in-Charge Charles D. Sherman received a call from Deputy Regional Director James Green, from the Boston Regional Office of DEA. Mr. Green informed Inspector Sherman that S/A Anthony Tripone from the New York Regional Office was presently a patient in St. Lukes Hospital in New York City and wished to talk to a DEA Inspector.

That same afternoon Inspectors John M. Mahoney and Mortimer L. Benjamin interviewed S/A Anthony Tripone in his room, number 5827, in the psychiatric ward of St. Lukes Hospital, 114th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, New York, New York. Agent Tripone appeared calm and normal but often spoke incoherently. He told the Inspectors that he had been placed in the psychiatric ward on Monday, February 25, 1974 by his partner S/A John Toal^{on} instructions from his Group Supervisor James Beckner.¹ He stated that while attending Special Agent's School in Washington, D.C. he had been singled out by former Chief Inspector Patrick Fuller who called him early one morning and interviewed him for the purpose of recruiting him to go into the Region and become a source of information for reporting incidents which would be of interest to Inspection. Tripone said that Fuller instructed him to use a special code system by which he could directly communicate with Mr. Fuller without anyone knowing about it. He would not explain the code but stated that now the system would have to be revised. He said that he had been reporting information directly to Mr. Fuller concerning the New York Region and that he believed Fuller had a special file for his reports. He stated that he believed Fuller recruited a second agent out of his class but refused to divulge his identity.

Agent Tripone prefaced his remarks by saying that what he was going to report to Inspections was not of any great consequence but that he felt it was serious enough to be reported. He told the Inspectors that his group as a whole, and primarily his group supervisor, James Beckner, had a drinking problem that was affecting their work. He continued by saying that the excessive drinking that he was subjected to was not only affecting his work habits but also was causing him personal problems with his fiancee, Linda Stanier. He suggested that the Inspectors interview Linda Stanier inasmuch as she had direct knowledge as to several instances of drinking problems

in his group and that she could corroborate many of the things that he told us. He said that his fiancee was present on numerous occasions and personally witnessed agents becoming so drunk that she had to physically help them to get home. He suggested that Inspector Benjamin personally call his fiancee who could be reached at her apartment at Smith College in Winston, Massachusetts after 5:00 in the evening.

S/A Tripone complained that he and the group he was in did not receive proper direction from Group Supervisor Beckner during investigations. He further stated that on several instances he and other agents in the group were advised to change investigative reports so that they would be acceptable and thus avoid criticism. He said that this was in direct contrast to what Mr. Fuller had explained to him concerning bureau policy in eliminating "the white lie". He further explained these remarks by referencing an accident report submitted by S/A James Bell. (See IC-73-063M) He said that it was common knowledge that Agent Bell intended to report that he had gotten into a automobile accident with a government vehicle on the way to a car wash one Sunday and was instructed not to report the incident as it happened. He said that Agent Bell was told who to go to for help in writing his report in an acceptable manner. S/A Tripone did not identify who the persons were that assisted him in preparing a fictitious report.

S/A Tripone stated that his present mental and physical condition was probably as a result of an intensified diet that he had placed himself on in which he lost approximately 20 pounds in a period of two weeks. He further stated that he had suffered malaria while in Vietnam and that his present condition might also be caused by a reoccurrence of the malaria attack. He told the Inspectors that he was in the psychiatric ward voluntarily only because G/S Beckner told him that if he wished to maintain his job he would have to submit himself for examination. The Inspectors then told Agent Tripone that they would call his fiancee and interview her and inform Mr. Fuller of Tripone's current status.

Inspector Mahoney and Inspector Benjamin then attempted to interview Dr. David McDonald who was the psychiatrist assigned to S/A Tripone's case. Dr. McDonald was not available. Accordingly at approximately 3:20 that same afternoon, Inspector Benjamin called Dr. McDonald by telephone (870-6676) and asked him for the current status of Agent Tripone's mental and physical condition. Dr. McDonald stated that Agent Tripone had been in the hospital for less than two days and that a definite diagnosis could not be made at this time. However, he stated that after a preliminary examination he suggested that Agent Tripone be admitted into the psychiatric ward of the hospital for observation and examinations. He said that Agent Tripone was having difficulty in determining realities and at times became incoherent. He said that his condition might be a result of a chemical imbalance and that his condition would probably respond to treatment.

At approximately 5:00 PM Tuesday, February 26, 1974 Inspector Benjamin called Agent Tripone's fiancee, Miss Linda Stanier, at 413-586-2657. Miss Stanier was aware of her fiance's current status. At first she was reluctant to

speak with Inspector Benjamin concerning improprieties that she alleged to have witnessed while in the company of her fiance and other members of her fiance's group. When it was explained to her that Agent Tripone had asked Inspector Benjamin to call her she reluctantly continued the conversation. She stated that she had first noticed a change in Agent Tripone's actions sometime during the middle part of January, 1974. She said that during the middle part of January she and Tripone had gone away for a weekend and it became clear to her at this time that he was not acting in his normal way. She stated that she believed that his trouble was the result of heavy drinking which she alleged was common practice by all agents in her fiance's group. She said that Agent Tripone had often complained to her that prior to going out on assignments he and members of his group were expected to go out and place themselves in various stages of intoxication before going out to work. She stated that Tripone complained that Beckner would on a routine basis take two or three hour lunch periods at which time large amounts of alcoholic beverages were consumed.

On Wednesday, February 27, 1974 Inspector Benjamin received a call from Miss Linda Stanier. Miss Stanier told Inspector Benjamin that she had been in touch with her fiance, Agent Tripone and he had instructed her to call Inspector Benjamin and furnish Inspector Benjamin with additional information. She explained that she had not told Inspector Benjamin everything during the first telephone conversation because she did not want to get Mary Ellen Monchar~~X~~(G/S Beckner's secretary), John Toal and other members of Beckner's group in trouble.

Miss Stanier then told Inspector Benjamin that sometime during "late winter of 1973" (January or February 1973) on a Friday morning she was in her fiance's apartment in New York and observed Agents Tripone, Toal and Peter O'Brien running through the apartment obviously very excited and disturbed about something. When she inquired of her fiance what was wrong, he reluctantly said that Toal had lost his gun during the previous evening and that they were looking for it. She further explained that she later learned that Toal did not find his gun for at least 1 day or possibly two or three days; and that he finally retrieved it from a "bartender".

Miss Stanier said that she attended a going away party for S/A Matthew Maher and that during the party both Beckner and Maher drank very heavily. Both men got into a heated argument that almost led to blows; "in fact - they both left the party and went out into the street." She added that the conduct of many of the agents at this party and numerous other affairs were a "disgrace". She said that her father was a career officer and that she was used to seeing men drink in Officer's Clubs etc., but that the agents drinking and carrying on considering that they were armed officers of the Federal government was a disgrace.

Miss Stanier said that Agent Tripone had complained that Beckner and members of his group took 2 hour lunches on a regular basis and often Beckner took his secretary on these extended lunch periods. Miss Stanier was asked if she had any first hand knowledge of this and she responded in the affirmative. She said that last year during the Customs familiarization lectures given to the Agents in the New York Region she went to lunch with Agent Tripone, Mary Ellen Monohan and Agent Ben Yarbrough. Also present in the restaurant were A/RD Wayne Valentine and G/S's Robert Manning, Gerald Carey, and James Beckner. Miss Stanier said that both Agent Tripone and Yarbrough had to leave to return to the Customs familiarization class and that she and Mary Ellen Monohan remained with Beckner and Manning. Both Valentine and Carey returned to work after a reasonable amount of time. Manning told her that he was on leave. After about two hours she left Beckner and Monohan who were still drinking and met with Agent Tripone.

Miss Stanier stated that on at least two occasions she was driven in government vehicles once by Agent John Taylor and once by Beckner. Miss Stanier said that she would be willing to meet with Inspector Benjamin and give him a statement concerning all of the above if it was necessary.

Endereed
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